

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 13-14 without prejudice and amend claims 11,12, and 15-21 as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of cooling circulating air by means of heat exchange with adiabatically cooled process air, characterised in that after its heat exchange with the circulating air, the cooled process air absorbs heat from the uncooled process air.

2. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the adiabatic cooling of the process air is effected in a single stage in the heat exchange with the circulating air.

3. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the circulating air and the process air are conducted in co-current in the heat exchange process.

4. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in the circulating air and the process air are conducted in counter-current in the heat exchange process.

5. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the circulating air and the process air are conducted in cross-current in the heat exchange process.

6. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the circulating air and the process air are conducted in cross-co-current through two cross-flow heat exchangers (2, 3) in the heat exchange process.

7. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that

the circulating air and the process air are conducted in cross-counter current through cross-flow heat exchangers (2, 3) in the heat exchange process.

8. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the cooling performance is controlled by variation of the circulating air/process air mass flow ratio.

9. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the cooling performance is controlled by variation of the amount of water introduced into the process air.

10. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the cooled process air is exhausted after it has absorbed heat from the uncooled process air.

11. (Currently Amended) An Apparatus for indirectly and adiabatically cooling a circulating air (4) including, the apparatus comprising:

a first heat exchanger device (1), which may be fed with the circulating air (4) and with a process air (6), the first heat exchanger for heat exchange between the circulating air and the process air;

a second heat exchanger device for heat exchange between the uncooled process air before its entry into the first heat exchanger device and the cooled process air after its discharge from the first heat exchanger device; and

a moistening device (7) for introducing water into the process air (6), characterised by a second heat exchanger device (12) for heat exchange between the uncooled process air (6) before its entry into the first heat exchanger device (1) and the cooled process air (6) after its discharge from the first heat exchanger device (1) after its discharge from the second heat exchanger device and before its entry into the first heat exchanger device.

12. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus as claimed in of Claim 11,

~~characterised in that further including a bypass for bypassing the second heat exchanger device (12) may be bypassed, at least on the inlet side of the uncooled process air (6), via a bypass.~~

13. - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus as claimed in of~~ Claim 11, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the first heat exchanger device (1) is ~~operable in a~~ co-current heat exchanger.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus as claimed in of~~ Claim 11, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the first heat exchanger device (1) is ~~operable in a~~ counter-current heat exchanger.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus as claimed in of~~ Claim 11, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the first heat exchanger device (1) is ~~operable in a~~ cross-current heat exchanger.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus as claimed in of~~ Claim 11, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the first heat exchanger device (1) includes at least two cross-current heat exchangers (2, 3).

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus as claimed in of~~ Claim 18, ~~characterised in that wherein the~~ at least two cross-current heat exchangers of the first heat exchanger device (1) ~~is~~are connected to form a operable in cross-co-current heat exchanger.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus as claimed in of~~ Claim 18, ~~characterised in that wherein the~~ two cross-current heat exchangers of the first heat exchanger device (1) ~~is operable in~~ are connected to form a cross-counter current heat exchanger.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus as claimed in of~~ Claim 11, characterised by further including a blower (13) for exhausting the process air (6) arranged in the pathway of the cooled process air (6) downstream of the second heat exchanger device (12).